

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4245

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, UR, MARR

SUBJ: PEACEKEEPING: WORKING GROUP MEETING OCTOBER 6

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: WORKING GROUP AGREED TO THREE OR FOUR SESSIONS TO BE DIVIDED BETWEEN DISCUSSIONS OF GUIDELINES AND PRACTICAL MEASURES, SOVIET DEL STRESSED FORMER WITH SUPPORT OF MOST NONALIGNED MEMBERS. WE RECOMMEND THAT WE ASSUME ACCOMMODATING STANCE ON GUIDELINES DISCUSSION FOR ATMOSPHERIC PURPOSES WITHOUT ANY CHANGE OF US BASIC POSITION AND PLACE EMPHASIS WHENEVER POSSIBLE ON USEFULNESS OF PURSUING PRACTICAL MEASURES. END SUMMARY.

2. WORKING GROUP OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS MET OCTOBER 6 WITH CANADIAN DELEGATION MEMBER EDMONDS SERVING AS ACTING CHAIRMAN IN PLACE OF NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR HARRIMAN, WHO WAS OCCUPIED WITH HIS FOREIGN MINISTER. EDMONDS NOTED THAT WORKING GROUP WAS CONVENING LATER THAN USUAL THIS YEAR WHICH WOULD MEAN THAT WG WAS UNDER PRESSURE TO MEET STEADILY FOR SEVERAL DAYS IN ORDER TO PREPARE REPORT TO BE PRESENTED
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TO SPECIAL COMMITTEE. EDMONDS ADDED THAT WORKING

GROUP MANDATE WAS TWOFOLD: TO DRAFT GUIDELINES, AN EFFORT WHICH WAS DEADLOCKED, AND TO CONSIDER PRACTICAL MEASURES. HE THOUGHT THE LATTER OFFERED THE GREATER CHANCE OF PRODUCING RESULTS.

3. SOVIET REP OVINNIKOV STATED THAT MAIN TASK OF WORKING GROUP WAS TO REACH AGREEMENTS ON THE GUIDELINES. HE DOUBTED IF THERE WOULD BE VALUE IN TAKING UP "TECHNICAL MATTERS" SINCE A DEADLOCK HERE WOULD INEVITABLY DEVELOP. OVINNIKOV CONTINUED THAT THE GUIDELINES WERE FUNDAMENTAL TO QUESTION OF PEACE-KEEPING. HE NOTED "IF WE DON'T REACH AGREEMENT, WE CAN AT LEAST MAKE SOME PROGRESS TO REPORT." CHAIRMAN EDMONDS REMARKED THAT THE IMPORTANT MATTER TO KEEP IN MIND IS THAT THE WG HAS A SHORT LEAD-TIME AND THAT IT WOULD OF COURSE BE PREFERABLE TO SHOW SOME MOVEMENT IN THE REPORT. UK INTERVENED TO STATE THAT WHILE IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT THERE COULD BE PROGRESS ON THE GUIDELINES HIS DELEGATION SAW NO DIFFICULTY IN THE WG DEVOTING TIME TO BOTH GUIDELINES AND PRACTICAL MEASURES: THE WG COULD PERHAPS WORK SIMULTANEOUSLY ON BOTH. US DEL COMMENTED THAT THERE SEEMED TO BE ELEMENT OF FUTILITY IN DISCUSSING GUIDELINES AT THIS POINT, PARTICULARLY IF EFFORTS WERE DIRECTED ONLY TOWARD RECONCILING MINOR DIFFICULTIES WHEN THE CONDITIONS SURROUNDING THE BASIC DEADLOCK REMAINED UNCHANGED. US BELIEVED BRIGHTER PROSPECT WAS DISCUSSION OF PRACTICAL MEASURES. INDIAN DEL THEN REMARKED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT NOT TO SHELVE THE PRIMARY MANDATE OF FORMULATING GUIDELINES HE WAS FOLLOWED BY THE JAPANESE MEMBER NOTING THAT THE PRACTICAL MEASURES DISCUSSIONS TO DATE CONSTITUTED A FRESH INITIATIVE AND SHOULD BE PURSUED.

4. USSR REP SAID HE THOUGHT THERE WERE CERTAIN PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS IN TAKING UP THE GUIDELINES. HE SUGGESTED THAT ARTICLE ONE IN THE ANNEX TO THE 1974 REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE (A/9827)
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HAD MET WITH NO OBJECTIONS PREVIOUSLY AND THAT AGREEMENT ON ARTICLE ONE COMBINED PERHAPS WITH TENTATIVE ACCEPTANCE OF THE NONALIGNED WORKING PAPER (NO.26) COULD BE NOTED IN THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. OVINNIKOV ADDED THAT PERHAPS ALL ARTICLES WHERE THERE WAS EARLIER AGREEMENT COULD BE NOTED IN THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT. OVINNIKOV SAID HE HOPED WG COULD MOVE IN TANDEM ON THESE TWO ITEMS:

HE ADDED THAT HIS SUGGESTIONS WERE PUT FORWARD FOR THE COMMITTEE'S CONSIDERATION WITH THE THOUGHT OF MORE CONCRETE DISCUSSIONS TAKING PLACE AT WG'S NEXT MEETING. UK INTERVENED TO NOTE HIS RECORDS INDICATE THAT FINAL AGREEMENT HAD NOT BEEN REACHED BY THE WG ON ARTICLE ONE, AND ON THE CONTRARY, THE UK HAD STATED THEN THAT AGREEMENT ON THIS ARTICLE WAS CONTINGENT UPON THE WG'S APPROVING OF THE ENTIRE WORKING PAPER. US DEL ENDORSED UK STATEMENT AND ADDED THAT SINCE THERE WAS DISAGREEMENT AS TO WG MEMBERS' POSITIONS, US WOULD REQUEST TO RESERVE ITS POSITION ON EVEN A "PROVISIONAL ACCEPTANCE OF ARTICLE ONE" AS SUGGESTED BY THE USSR DELEGATION. OVINNIKOV, WITH INDIAN REP ECHOING, REPEATED THAT IN HIS VIEW WG SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON DRAWING UP GUIDELINES SINCE TECHNICAL QUESTIONS WERE UNIMPORTANT. BRAZIL SUPPORTED IN GENERAL TERMS USSR POSITION.

5. CHAIRMAN EDMONDS IN CONCLUDING MEETING RECOMMENDED THAT FIRST SESSION OR TWO BE DEVOTED TO GUIDELINES AND THEN DISCUSSION TO FOLLOW OF PRACTICAL MEASURES. CHAIRMAN ALSO POINTED OUT THAT WG OBSERVERS HAD MADE USEFUL CONTRIBUTION TO PRACTICAL MEASURES ASPECT OF COMMITTEE'S MANDATE AND THAT THEY DESERVED TO BE HEARD BEFORE WG COMPLETED ITS MEETINGS THIS YEAR.

6. COMMENT: USSR DEL'S PUSH TO OPEN DISCUSSION ON GUIDELINES AT LAST MINUTE MUST BE TAKEN AS GRANDSTANDING WITH VIEW TO PUTTING US, UK, JAPAN AND CANADIAN DELS ON DEFENSIVE. TO ATTEMPT TO MAKE PROGRESS IN TWO SESSIONS ON COM-
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PLEX ISSUES INVOLVED IN GUIDELINES NEGOTIATIONS MUST BE VIEWED AS CUNNING AND RATHER CYNICAL TACTIC. ACTION REQUESTED: WE STRONGLY DOUBT IF THE USSR IS INTERESTED AT THIS STAGE IN ENTERING A MEANINGFUL DISCUSSION OF GUIDELINES. WE PROPOSE THAT WE HEAR OUT THE VIEWS OF WG MEMBERS AT NEXT SESSION WITHOUT UNDERTAKING ANY COMMITMENT WHATSOEVER AND AT APPROPRIATE POINT SUGGEST THAT SIGNIFICANT DISCUSSION ON GUIDELINES RESULTED IN WORKING PAPER, 1974 (A/9827) WHICH IS APPROPRIATE PLACE TO RESUME. NOTING OF COURSE BASIC DIFFERENCES OF VIEWPOINTS.
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